



# County of Yolo

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Fifth District – **Duane Chamberlain**

*County Administrator* – Sharon Jensen  
*Clerk of the Board* - Ana Morales

## YOLO COUNTY DELTA POLICIES, DESIRED OUTCOMES, AND HABITAT PROJECT PARAMETERS

### POLICIES

- Yolo County should be directly represented in the process of developing management and governance recommendations for the Delta. Priorities are:
  - preserving County prerogatives related to land use, water resources, flood management, tax revenues, public health and safety, economic development, agricultural stability, recreation, and environmental protection;
  - developing a Delta Conservancy with a clearly defined and limited mission and a governing body committed to that mission, institutionally separate from regulatory functions, capable of addressing multiple goals for Delta management, that incorporates a non-state entity to handle land management, and has reliable and adequate funding sources in perpetuity; and
  - developing legislation, participating in planning processes, and implementing changes in Delta management;
- The economic effects on Yolo County of changes to management and governance of the Delta should be recognized, analyzed and compensated for;
- Flood management, habitat protection and restoration, preservation of agriculture, recreation, and land use decisions in the Delta must be consistent with adopted policies for Yolo County;
- Area of origin and existing water rights relative to Yolo County must be protected;
- The value of the Yolo Bypass for flood management and existing habitat must not be compromised;
- Economic, habitat, water resources, and flood management impacts must be recognized by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) in developing the Delta mercury TMDL;
- Public and private financial support should be secured for flood management, improved emergency response, preservation of agriculture, protection of water resources, and enhancement and restoration of habitat;
- Communities in the Delta should be accorded special recognition and their economic vitality advanced;
- Any changes to the boundaries of the Delta must be supported by clearly evidenced public benefit;
- The Yolo County Natural Heritage Program must be recognized and activities in the Delta must support and be integrated with it.

## **DESIRED OUTCOMES**

### **Fiscal**

1. Provide permanent funding independent of the state budget to pay in-lieu property taxes and fees on land used for habitat restoration or water conveyance, including existing state in-lieu debt for the Yolo Wildlife Area.
2. Fully mitigate costs of increased public services (such as law enforcement, fire, rescue, roads) lost business revenues and income, and socio-economic impacts of changes in governance, habitat conversions and alternative conveyance facilities..

### **Tier One**

1. Provide new municipal water for the City of Davis, City of Woodland, and UC Davis, including expediting permits and providing habitat mitigation necessary for implementation.
2. Protect economically viable agriculture in Yolo County.
  - a. Develop appropriate agricultural industrial uses and infrastructure within the Clarksburg Agricultural District, and assist the Clarksburg region to provide agricultural tourism-related activities and “Delta gateway” facilities.
  - b. Provide farmers with safe harbor agreements, fish screens, and buffers related to habitat areas or conveyance facilities.
3. Ensure that habitat restoration is consistent and integrated with and the Yolo County Natural Heritage Program, and as part of that integration:
  - a. Expedite permitting and provide habitat mitigation for any County or Reclamation District improvements within the Clarksburg region and Yolo Bypass, including but not limited to the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, levees, and irrigation facilities.
  - b. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) must provide permitting and regulatory assurances for actions that the County, the Cities of West Sacramento, Winters, Woodland and Davis, special districts, other public agencies, and local nonprofits in the County undertake that have the potential to result in the regulatory take of any of the BDCP target species.
4. Provide a solution to flood issues on Cache Creek and flood protection for our small communities.
5. Protect area of origin water rights and water quality in the Delta and ensure water supplies for Yolo agriculture.
6. The Delta Conservancy must have substantial local representation on its governing body, a dedicated funding source, and the capacity to assist local government in addressing changes in the Delta, including but not limited to economic development, recreation, tourism, conservation of agriculture and open space.

### **Tier Two**

- Remediate mercury in the Cache Creek watershed at its sources:
  - Design and develop habitat restoration projects so as not to increase existing levels of mercury bio-methylation within the Yolo Bypass and Delta; and
  - Remediate mercury accumulation within the Cache Creek Settling Basin.

- Improve flood protection along the Sacramento River and for the Yolo Bypass.
- Protect riparian water rights downstream of any conveyance intake.
- Implement high priority projects in Yolo County's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.
- Replace and expand any displaced farm labor camps.
- Protect infrastructure:
  - Protect the existing and future operations of the Port of Sacramento as an industrial and transport hub for the region, including its levees;
  - Expedite permitting and reserve land for spoils necessary to deepen the ship channel 35 feet so that it can accommodate larger freighters;
  - Protect the continued operation of State Route 84 as a major truck route for the transportation of agricultural products out of the Clarksburg region;
  - Ensure that the future expansion of Interstate 80 across the Yolo Bypass and improvements to the Union Pacific Railroad are not precluded or impaired; and
  - Ensure that any changes to the operation of the Sacramento Weir do not adversely affect Old River Road (County Road 22).
- Ensure that changes to the operation of the Fremont Weir, Yolo Bypass toe drain, or other proposals do not adversely affect planned development of the future Elkhorn Specific Plan.
- Fund construction and operation of the Pacific Flyway Center next to the Yolo Bypass.
- Establish Yolo County gateways to the Delta region for ecotourism and recreation focusing on legacy communities including Clarksburg.
- Include legacy communities in the Secondary Zone of the Delta.
- Obtain funding for conservation easements in Yolo County.

## **PARAMETERS FOR DELTA-RELATED HABITAT PROJECTS**

- Willing sellers only;
- Payment in-lieu of property tax for lands changing from private to public ownership;<sup>1</sup>
- Payment for lost business opportunity and income, including socio- economic issues;
- Project impacts originating in Yolo County must be discharged in Yolo County;
- Permanent protection/preservation of like or better quality agricultural lands for agricultural lands converted, compliance with local policies regarding conservation easements;
- Buffers sufficient to avoid the need for additional restrictions on farm practices on surrounding lands
- Continued payment of special district assessment(s) and fees;
- Mitigation of costs for increased public services (e.g. law enforcement, fire, rescue, roads);
- No adverse changes to flood protection for surrounding areas;
- Full ESA and CESA protection for neighboring lands/landowners;
- Full ESA and CESA protection for affected water diversions;
- Consistency with the Yolo Natural Heritage Program;
- Protection of existing high value habitat, such as in the Yolo Wildlife Area;
- Mitigation for loss of terrestrial habitat for special status species and other wildlife;
- Funding and responsible entity for monitoring and adaptive management of habitat projects and associated lands;
- Control program for vectors, invasive species and agricultural pests;
- No out of county water transfers from converted lands;
- No increase in mercury release or transport;
- Mitigation for increased organic carbon at North Bay Aqueduct;
- Maximize public recreational opportunities associated with habitat projects;
- If possible, projects will be designed to accept dredged materials from the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel;
- Permanently funded stakeholder working group for the Yolo/Solano portion of the Delta; and
- Opportunity for Yolo County to obtain mitigation of future impacts associated with County public works projects (e.g., roads, bridges, levee work) as part of habitat projects.

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<sup>1</sup> For all items in this list that require funding, such funding must be guaranteed to Yolo County in perpetuity and allocated outside the state's budget process.